

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 05930 231545Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-04 DEAE-00 AID-05 SNM-02 /022 W
-----231707Z 097066 /43

R 231530Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1729

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 05930

PASS ALSO DEA, HEW/NIDA, AND AID/SER/INC

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL - POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF
HERBICIDE

1. EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED REQUEST FROM JOURNALIST FOR INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF HERBICIDE RESIDUE IF CONSUMER SMOKED MARIJUANA WHICH HAD BEEN SPRAYED BY GOM ERADICATION TEAMS. EMBASSY DECLINED COMMENT ON BASIS OF NO INFORMATION AND, TO SATISFY OUR OWN CURIOSITY, SPOKE WITH LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR OF GRAMAXONE WHICH GOM GENERALLY USES AGAINST MARIJUANA. (GRAMAXONE IS IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES (ICI) TRADE NAME FOR HERBICIDE BASED ON PARAQUAT ION.) ICI REP HERE HAS GIVEN US COPY OF LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION OF ICI IN FERNHURST, ENGLAND.

2. PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW:

(A) "THE ENQUIRY FROM THE US EMBASSY IN MEXICO IS A VERY CURIOUS ONE INDEED AND AS WE HAVE NOT CARRIED OUT ANY EXPERIMENTS ALONG THESE LINES WE CAN ONLY EXPRESS OPINION."

(B) "I HAVE CONSULTED RATLS (SIC) ABOUT THIS AND THE
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OVERALL VIEW IS THAT THIS USE OF PARAQUAT WILL NOT PRESENT A MAJOR HAZARD TO THE CONSUMER. MARIJUANA SPRAYED WITH PARAQUAT AND PICKED ON THE SAME DAY WILL HAVE A RELATIVELY HIGH RESIDUE LEVEL BECAUSE THERE WILL BE LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR PHOTOCHEMICAL DEGRADATION. HOWEVER, WHEN THE MARIJUANA IS SMOKED IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE COMBUSTION TEMPERATURE WILL DEGRADE ANY

RESIDUES TO CO₂, NO₂ AND PYRIDINE BREAKDOWN PRODUCTS."

(C) "THE INITIAL RESIDUE LEVELS WILL DEPEND ON THE RATE OF PARAQUAT, THE VOLUME OF WATER USED FOR APPLICATION, AND THE DILUTION FACTOR OF TREATED AND NON-TREATED MARIJUANA AT THE CONSUMER END. IF YOU CAN SUPPLY THESE DETAILS WE COULD GIVE YOU A MORE QUALIFIED VIEW ON THE RISKS INVOLVED."

3. FYI: EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO DECLINE COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, REFERRING ENQUIRERS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: MARIJUANA, HERBICIDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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